

# SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Swimming is one of the most popular water sports in the United States. In San Bernardino County alone, there are about 3,000 public pools and spas, several waterslides, lakes and lagoons, plus many private backyard pools.

## Did you know?

- San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) Recreational Health Program has inspectors that visit all public swimming areas such as pools, spas, lakes, lagoons and waterslides at least twice each year to prevent and reduce swimming hazards.
- They inspect pools at apartment complexes, health clubs, hotels and motels, condominiums, schools, camps and municipal parks.
- Murky, green pools not only pose a drowning risk for children, but can also produce mosquitoes that can carry and transmit diseases such as malaria and encephalitis and West Nile Virus.
- In contaminated water, many bacteria carry diseases, such as typhoid, hepatitis, dysentery and cholera, which are then passed along to anyone who comes in contact with the water.
- Swimming with a cough, cold sore or bandages could be a hazard for other swimmers.
- Bacteria can enter water by dust, leaves, wind, rain, people and animals.
- Water not kept in proper chemical balance could cause eye and skin irritation to swimmers and damage to pool equipment.
- Keeping your pool/spa covered when not in use can conserve water and keep the pool cleaner. Public pools using covers must have DEHS approval before they can be installed.

## Water safety facts

- ✓ California has more pools per capita than most other states, and drowning in a home swimming pool or spa is the leading cause of death for children under 5 years of age.
- ✓ Public and private pools should be completely surrounded by a 5-foot fence with the self-latching, locking device located a minimum 42 inches from the ground. However, 54 inches from the ground is recommended.
- ✓ Post emergency numbers and CPR instructions by pool. Maintain a phone poolside.
- ✓ Children under the age of 14 should not swim without the supervision of an adult.
- ✓ All public swimming areas must have a life hook, life ring and first aid kit readily accessible for emergency situations. Private pool owners should follow the same regulations.
- ✓ Pregnant women, elderly people and infants should not use a hot tub/spa without consulting a physician.

All public swimming areas must meet county standards to remain in operation. Any questions about your swimming safety may be directed to the **Division of Environmental Health Services Recreational Health Program**:



County of San Bernardino • Department of Public Health  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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